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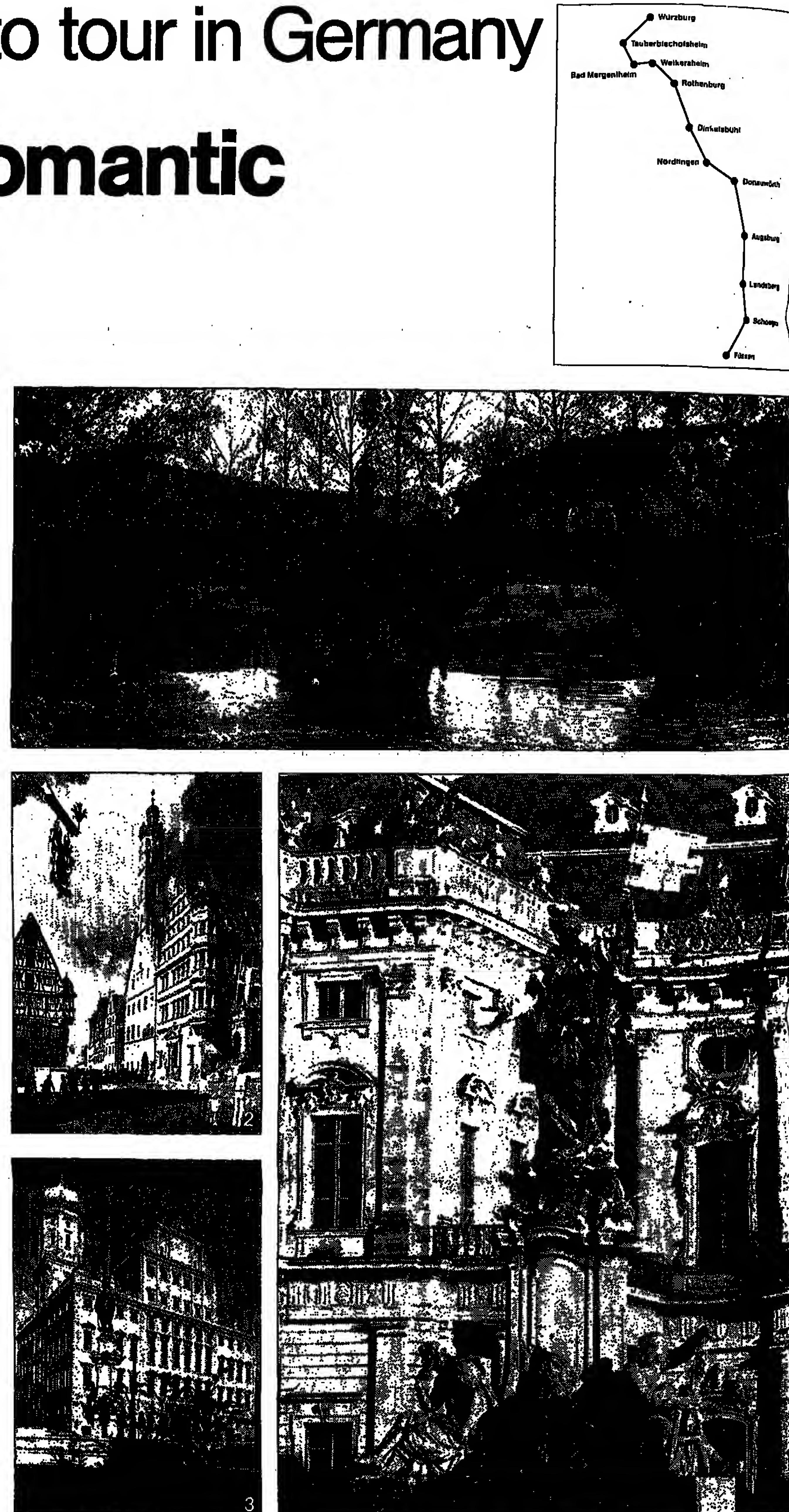
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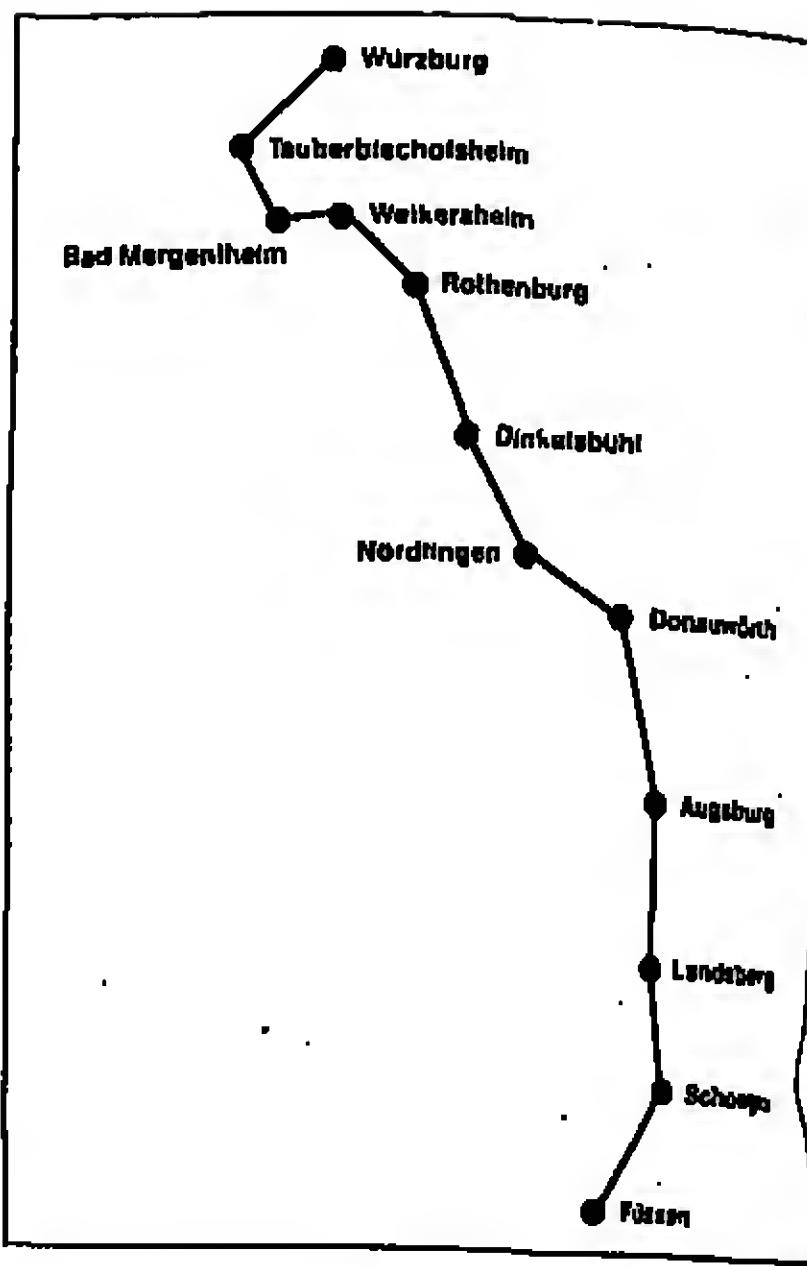
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- 1 The Tauber valley
- 2 Rothenburg ob der Tauber
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Enthusiastic welcome for Genscher in Washington



How can the Germans, so recently felt to be troublemakers in the Western alliance, prepared to quit in a blaze of Gorbachov euphoria, now suddenly be tried and trusted friends with whom the superpower America is keen to share its leadership role?

This is a question many will have asked who saw for themselves with surprise what an extraordinarily civil welcome German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was given in Washington.

There wasn't a trace of suspicion. Herr Genscher came as a friend and was treated accordingly. Accusations of double-dealing and unreliability seemed to have been forgotten.

The instinct that he was a smooth customer, and a skilled tactician seemed to have paled, giving way to almost respectful recognition of him as an experienced Ostpolitik hand with a wider view where concepts were concerned.

There are several possible explanations for this swift change of mind. President Bush and his closest advisers evidently misread the situation in the Federal Republic, risking a confrontation on the missiles issue. It could have been avoided if State Department ex-

As this applause proved him right, the winners include those who urged him to make his move. The Bush administration has found its German Nato ally to be a valuable aide in making full use of the opportunities presented by the reform movement in Eastern Europe and in striking while the iron of Mr Gorbachov's new thinking is still hot.

If Washington casts Bonn as a bona fide partner, however, the Germans must be clear as to the reasons why. Otherwise disappointment and fresh irritation will soon surface.

The Bush administration is keen not to allow a long-term dispute within Nato to jeopardise its status as the leading Western power at a time when the cold war seems to have been won and the West ought to be preparing for a fresh "post-war" era, complete with fresh opportunities.

On his recent visit to Washington the SPD leader, Hans-Jochen Vogel, may have found that all doors were open to him, but the Americans are keen to ensure peace and quiet in Nato and would prefer the present Bonn government to another, less stable coalition.

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parts had gained access in time to the highest levels, where Secretary of State Baker prefers to rely on a small group of top officials.

After Nato Foreign Ministers had struggled to arrive at a compromise formula in Brussels this information gap was largely bridged. The Americans

have always been impressed when people stand firm.

President Bush himself provided his Nato allies with an opportunity of doing so by presenting disarmament proposals of his own, thereby grasping the initiative and enabling the West to ponder over a political response to change in the East.

He must have felt something verging on gratitude for the political pressure that forced him to act. His move was an undeniable success.

A "must" in terms of sound political instinct, it was hailed as a courageous step forward and a resolute demonstration of leadership.

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So has sought their assistance in the attempt to promote the process of democratisation in Eastern Europe and to make it irreversible.

That is why he is banking on a trend toward political pluralism that is tantamount to communism filing a petition in bankruptcy — and hoping the Kremlin leaders will tolerate it.

Yet the West would do well to give rise to no illusions — and to harbour



Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and President Bush at the White House.

(Photo AP)

This German-American rapprochement is due to more than mere tactical considerations. The US administration agrees with Bonn that the prospects of ending the division of Europe have never been better.

The Federal Republic might even find itself forced to slam on the anchors if the Bush administration were to show signs of impatience.

The United States has no intention of intervening in Eastern Europe in return for being allowed to take up residence in Mr Gorbachov's common European house; intervention could all too easily be interpreted as an attempt at destabilisation.

Washington could, however, urge Bonn to combine its less suspicious assistance with the demand for more reforms and greater freedom.

Bonn's Ostpolitik, which is geared more to quiet, behind-the-scenes diplomacy and to gradual progress, might then yet give cause for a fresh transatlantic dispute.

Jürgen Konr

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 26 June 1989)

the Tories' rout at the Euro-polls to give way on this issue, the Madrid summit seemed likely to vote 11-1 against her on the social charter.

With its "emphasis" on the "social dimension" of the internal market and on commitment to economic and monetary union, the Madrid European Community summit seems sure to have been another fighting event.

Since last year's Hanover summit, Bonn and other member-governments have urged the adoption of a social charter of minimum welfare standards to alleviate fears, in more advanced member-countries, of "social dumping" in post-1992 Europe.

Hesitantly, the European Commission, led by its French Socialist president, Jacques Delors, drew up a charter of basic social rights for consideration by Community leaders at the Madrid summit.

Unless Mrs Thatcher felt obliged by

Monetary union, social charter head Euro summit agenda

Frankfurt's Bundesbank

M. Delors' hesitation seems to have been due to the stated objections of Mrs Thatcher to what she sees as the introduction of Marxism by the back door via Brussels. The social charter has yet to meet with Mrs Thatcher's approval.

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl, however, has promised Ernst Breit, general secretary of the DGB, Germany's Düsseldorf-based trades union confederation, to insist on minimum Community standards for employees' rights.

Contrary to a widespread impression, the Bundesbank has no fundamental objections to this political objective. The terms are what interests it more.

The Delors report, commissioned at Hanover, envisages a three-stage programme. The Bundesbank's Karl Otto

Continued on page 2

■ EUROPE

New parliament's blocs not quite what they seem



Old Strasbourg hands such as the German leaders of the Socialist and Christian Democratic groups in the European Assembly, Rudi Arndt (SPD) and Egon Klepsch (CDU), either shake their heads in disbelief or revealingly prefer to keep their own counsel in response to media reports of a left-wing landslide in the European Parliament.

In reality there has not been much change, as will be seen on 25 July when the president, or Speaker, is elected.

That is the only vote in which the left-right divide on which a number of German commentators with little idea of how the European Parliament works are harping in connection with the 18 June Euro-elections is at all relevant.

Leaving aside the spectacular snub the British electorate gave Mrs Thatcher, whose Conservatives lost 14 seats to Labour, the Socialist camp has hardly changed.

Herr Arndt's group lost seven seats in five countries and gained eight in another five, while in Luxembourg there was no change.

The Socialist group now has 181 seats, as against 166, with 14 or 15 newcomers from Britain.

The European People's Party, as the Christian Democrats are known in Strasbourg, has in fact gained seats even though both German TV channels saw it as the loser.

The Christian Democrats lost seats in three countries: Germany, Ireland and Portugal, with the nine CDU/CSU losses in Germany weighing heavily in comparison with two losses in Ireland and one in Portugal.

Yet in Belgium, Greece, Italy and Portugal the European People's Party won seven seats.

The 15 Spanish Christian Democrats have switched allegiance from the Conservative to the EPP group. They were fed up with Mrs Thatcher's approach.

The election night confusion was due to European Parliament officials basing their revised figures on the groupings as they had existed in the outgoing Assembly.

Every MEP must now specify by the inaugural session of the new Parliament which group he or she belongs to. Says a somewhat secretive Egon Klepsch: "I am now working on the assumption that we will be at least 125 strong."

So the line-up should be: Socialists plus 14, Christian Democrats plus 12.

Those who argue that Green gains (the Rainbow group) automatically strengthen the Left are wide of the mark.

Members of the outgoing Rainbow group ranged from extreme left-wing German fundamentalists and Danish anti-Common Marketers to the odd regional representative and *Realos* Greens with whom centre groups might be prepared to cooperate.

Adding 10 or 12 gains to the Rainbow group's previous 20 seats is not going to make the Greens any more homogeneous.

Nine French Greens, led by Antoine Wacquier from Alsace, and the Flemish

Agalev group are not just *Realos*; they feel poles apart from the Socialists.

They might back the Left in the vote for presidency of the Assembly, but that is all.

The Communists have lost ground yet again. In 1984 they felt their 48 seats were a catastrophe; they now have only 44. In Spain and Portugal they gained one seat each, but in Italy and France they lost five and three respectively.

Idiomatic differences between the Italians and the French have led in the past to the Communist group seldom voting uniformly.

There is no reason why they should now contribute toward a stable left-wing bloc. The Italian Communists have frequently sided with the centre parties.

The Liberals lost two seats, but the re-entry of Germany's Free Democrats into the European Parliament will strengthen their hand.

The Gaullist-led group has been hard hit. It had 29 members in the outgoing Assembly. Depending how previous alliances side, its strength in the new Assembly could be down to 21.

It would be an exaggeration to argue that right-wing extremists have made sensational gains. Were it not for the German Republicans, they would have lost ground.

The French National Front held on to its 10 seats. The Italian neo-Fascists lost one of their five seats.

They, plus six Republicans and a Flemish nationalist, would total 21 and be no more influential than France's M. Le Pen or the Rainbow group has been in the past.

The real losers at the Euro-polls were the Conservatives, who are constantly confused by German commentators with the Christian Democrats.

Their strength is down from 66 to 33: minus the Spaniards, two out of four Danes and 14 British Tories.

As the majority of British Conservative MEPs, Lord Plumb first and fore-

Continued from page 1

Pöhl, incidentally, played a leading role in compiling it.

The crucial feature of the programme is that a firm political commitment on all three stages is the prerequisite for the first.

The second stage will make a political realignment of the entire Community virtually inevitable, meaning treaty amendments subject to the approval of all 12 governments and parliaments.

Mrs Thatcher rightly appreciates that in the final stage economic and financial policy would be almost entirely decided by a common government, leaving member-countries sovereign rights in foreign affairs, defence, the law and the arts.

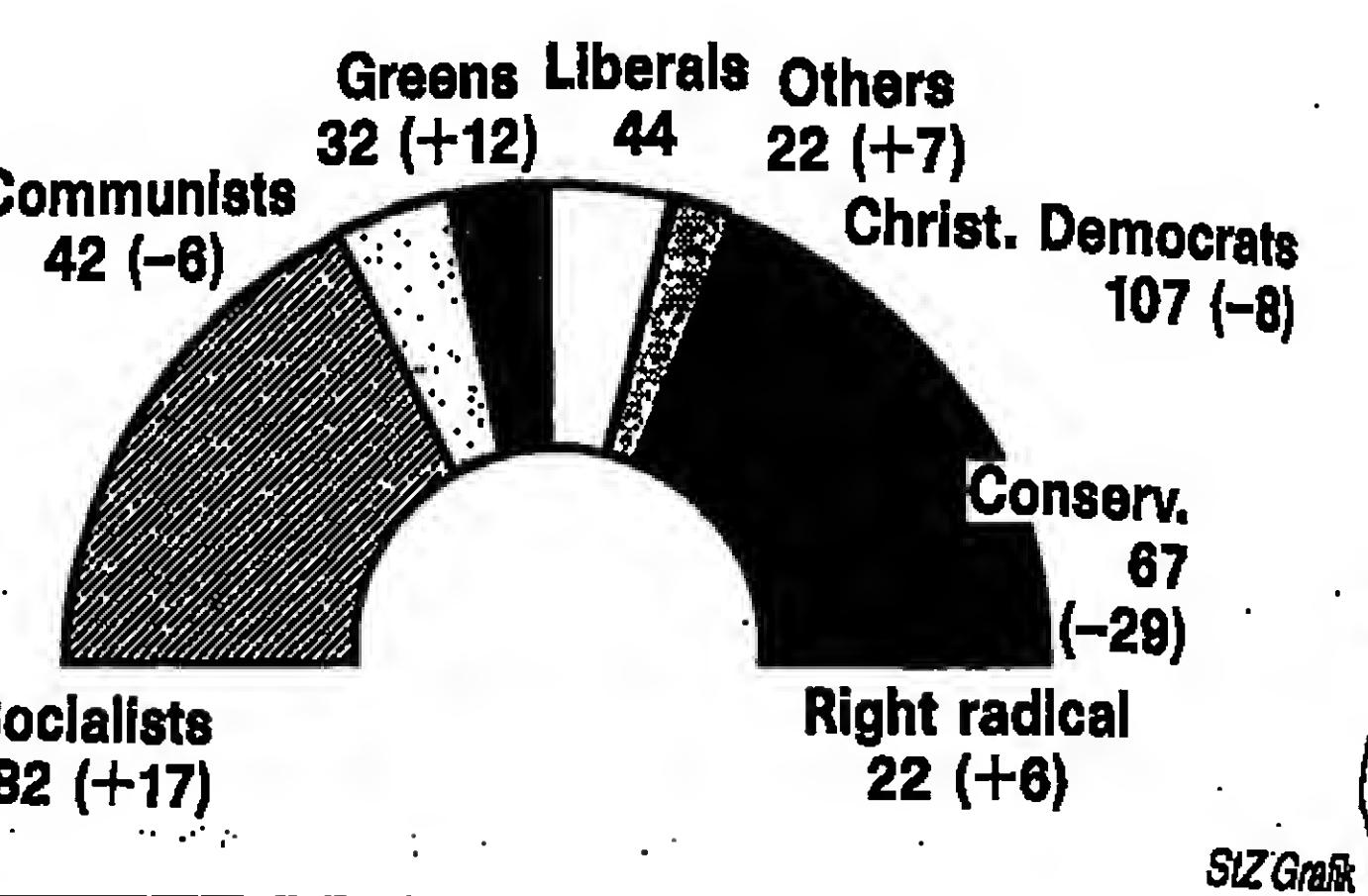
Yet not only British industry and the City have endorsed the idea; even an all-party parliamentary committee at Westminster has come out in favour of a monetary union in addition to the single internal market.

Under this growing pressure Mrs Thatcher seems prepared to consider embarking on the first stage, but without committing herself on the final, political objective.

Adding 10 or 12 gains to the Rainbow group's previous 20 seats is not going to make the Greens any more homogeneous.

Nine French Greens, led by Antoine Wacquier from Alsace, and the Flemish

The new European parliament



most, are far more European in outlook than their party leadership in London, they are widely felt — by many Social Democrats, for instance, — to have been unfairly penalised.

The Socialist International and European Socialist leaders are to meet on 28 June. A proposition will be made to the EPP group with which, as the largest centre group, the Socialists have collaborated successfully in the past.

Their proposition could be a Socialist president from 1989 till 1992, followed until 1994 by M. Tindemans. If the EPP accepted this proposal, all other candidates would be outsiders.

The president attends European Community summit conferences. He signs the Community's budget. Despite the strictly limited powers the European Parliament is agreed to have, the Community's budget is not valid until he signs it.

The president also represents the European Parliament all over the world. Lord Plumb, for instance, made a substantial contribution toward the improvement in relations between Comecon countries and the European Parliament.

In 1984 French National Front MEPs voted for Lord Plumb. A centre-left alliance would neutralise any such embarrassing prospect and is thus likely, if not definite.

Since the Single European Act came into force a majority (of 260) in the European Parliament has been enough to topple proposals by the European Commission or by member-governments.

But here too there has been no change. None of the parliamentary groups in Strasbourg can muster anywhere near this strength.

There are those who will continue to argue that the European Parliament is virtually powerless and thus doesn't much matter. What they fail to see is that alignments in Strasbourg have little or nothing to do with alignments in Bonn.

"Europe is the winner," says Social Democrat Rudi Arndt. After the rout of the Tories and despite Republican gains there are more pro-Europeans than anti-Europeans among the 518 new MEPs — and more than there were in the outgoing Assembly.

In autumn 1985 she knuckled under, signing the Single European Act which forms the basis of the internal market.

Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, who chaired the Council of Ministers in the first half of 1989 in close collaboration with the French, who take over in the chair, was keen to force a decision on both counts.

He is a proud man, determined to join the ranks of the leading members of the Twelve.

All that can be said for sure at this stage is that in December, when President Mitterrand of France hosts the Paris summit, the French leader will be only too happy to force Mrs Thatcher to submission.

Under this growing pressure Mrs Thatcher seems prepared to consider embarking on the first stage, but without committing herself on the final, political objective.

Yet commitment on this point is

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Voting trend in Euro poll raises fears of a 1990 hung parliament in Bonn



The European election has produced a phenomenon in German politics which many had feared: the advent of a five-party system.

If Germans vote along similar lines in the general election next year, the major parties would have trouble forming a government.

It would mean that neither the existing coalition between the CDU and the FDP nor one between the SPD and the Greens would be enough.

The chairman of the SPD, Hans-Joachim Vogel, says that the conservative union (CDU and CSU) would then only be able to choose between a coalition with the (extreme right-wing) Republicans — which would not be approved by the FDP — and a grand coalition.

Public opinion of this kind indicates the problems which lie ahead for the big political parties.

Leading CDU and CSU politicians cling to their hopes that the popularity of the Republicans is no more than a passing electoral protest.

They claim that, with the proper political strategy, the conservative union will be able to win back Republican voters (at least 50 per cent of whom previously voted for the CDU or CSU).

This is an oversimplified response. The major people's parties have lost a great deal of their integrative power.

Their popularity has taken a serious knock; it is about time that they accept

A growing number of voters no longer remain loyal to just one party.

Traditional social milieus, Catholic/

denominational on the one hand and

trade union/lower middle-class on the other, are disintegrating. The new middle-class is becoming increasingly significant.

In places where the CDU and CSU were powerful, for example, in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, they lost a disproportionately high number of votes to the extreme right-wing Republicans.

The structure of German society is rapidly changing; in 1987 there were, for the first time ever, more white-collar workers than blue-collar workers.

The political parties, however, are slow to respond to this process of societal transformation. Analogous trends are also discernible within the big parties themselves.

The membership figures are declining, particularly among the young.

The Junge Union, for example, the youth organisation of the CDU, lost 10,000 members in just eight months. The situation is no better in the SPD, and the trend is hardening.

People are generally trying to find ways of giving vent to their dissatisfaction with traditional political parties following the numerous scandals and the permanent state of horse-trading for power and party jobs.

Voters initially turned to the left, to the Greens, to channel their frustration.

Despite all the predictions the Greens became an established party.

Disappointment and social downgrading: the Republicans recruit most of their support from lower-class voters have now made voters turn to the right. This new right-wing grouping will also consolidate its position.

These voters are not only toying with their ballot papers but demand that the CDU and CSU stop letting themselves be kept in check by the FDP.

The behaviour of the electorate can also be interpreted as a sign of displeasure with Helmut Kohl, who has been unable to capitalise on his "Charlottenburg bonus."

In addition, there is a smaller group of voters who are indeed confronted by existential problems.

They are homeless or are unable to find a job and put the blame for their

this fact. The CSU's pronounced setback shows that the problem not only relates to the CDU.

The Republicans became the second most powerful political grouping in a number of towns and districts in Bavaria.

The election outcome for the CDU was not quite as catastrophic in Baden-Württemberg; however, the fact that the CDU lost 11 per cent and the Republicans gained 8.7 per cent of the vote (this was the first time the Republicans took part in an election in this Land) speaks for itself.

Both the CDU and the CSU have every reason to be self-critical.

The marked political talent of Franz Josef Strauss was able to cover up the looming disaster for a long time. Both parties are now forced to accept political realities.

The explanation that the leader of the Republicans, Franz Schönhuber, does have a certain media appeal sounds like a bad joke.

The reasons for his success are much more far-reaching and relate to more than the party's stance on foreigners.

Other factors are social problems,

the rejection of the European Parliament due to fears of loss of sovereignty, and the deadly hush on the issue of the German Question.

Many will say that Chancellor Helmut Kohl has again managed to somehow muddle through. Insofar as this relates to the fruitless discussion about his chancellorship this is correct.

The small margin which separates the conservative union and the SPD saved the day.

The Bonn coalition will benefit from the fact that the FDP also managed to move into the European Parliament without the help of the *Zweitstimme*, the second vote each party otherwise has in elections in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This has improved and perhaps consolidated the situation.

The question is, however, how much relief can this limited stabilisation at a low level provide?

How powerful are the forces at the fringes of the party-political spectrum and how great is the desire for further "wannings"?

Dissatisfaction was the primary motive of many German voters in the Euro poll. The future governability of the Federal Republic of Germany is at stake.

None of the two political camps has a workable majority. This is the real problem, not the never-ending discussion about the Chancellor's future.

Fritz Ullrich Fack

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 June 1989)

Republicans, anyway. This party, however, does represent a major challenge.

The CDU/CSU and the SPD should move closer together, and the FDP should also seek refuge in this centre alliance.

The traditional parties cannot simply rely on the fact that the Republicans will fail to get the five per cent needed for parliamentary representation in the next general election on account of an expected higher turnout.

Although the reservoir of non-voters will be much smaller the Republicans will still represent a risk to the other parties.

Anke Fuchs, the national business manager of the SPD, has urged the CDU to join forces to win back the voters on the right-wing fringe.

The CDU/CSU just about managed to remain the most powerful party, and the FDP achieved its election goal of moving back into the Strasbourg assembly.

This has a stabilising effect on the coalition as well as on the Chancellor's position.

There will be no Kohl discussion, especially since those politicians thought to be waiting-in-the-wings as possible successors, Lothar Späth and Theo Walig, suffered heavy losses in the election. Kohl's rivals have, for the time being at least, been beaten off.

Streible and Walig painfully experienced just how successfully Franz Josef Strauss was able to integrate the right-wing fringe. Yet even Strauss would have been unable to prevent the Republicans.

A further important aspect for Helmut Kohl is that an SPD-Greens majority is still a distant dream. The Greens stagnated. The Social Democrats lost ground.

The conservative union, therefore, can still observe its new rivals on the right-wing fringe with relative composure.

They are homeless or are unable to find a job and put the blame for their

This is the best remedy against the

The German Tribune

Theo Waigel may already be regretting his appointment as Bonn Finance Minister. Pushing through the 1990 budget, for example, is going to be a difficult task.

Waigel's ideas on the budget aren't the same as some of the other members of the Cabinet. They are either unfamiliar with or disapprove of the word "consolidation."

Waigel got off to a flying start after taking on the finance portfolio. Hardly had he taken office when his tax advisers announced that next year's tax revenue would be DM8.4bn up on the figure forecast in the July 1988 financial plan - despite the discontinuation of the withholding tax.

This is due to the fact that GNP will increase much faster in real terms than officially predicted and that prices will also rise at a more rapid pace.

A one per cent increase in inflation gives the Federal Government, the *Landes* and local governments an additional tax revenue of DM5bn (the Federal Government receiving just under half of this figure).

The fact that Waigel has to pay DM4.1bn less than originally expected to the European Community is also a comforting factor.

This reduction primarily results from the drought catastrophe in the USA, which led to a sharp increase in the world market prices for food, and from the rising dollar exchange rate.

Both developments reduced the refunds on exports in Europe designed to offset the difference to world market prices.

Waigel, therefore, would probably have no trouble financing the third stage of the tax reform - if only the other ministers had the same ideas on how budget funds should be allotted.

Education Minister Jürgen Möller

■ BONN

A new Minister of Finance wrestles to balance budget



wants a 20 per cent increase in his budget, first and foremost to create university jobs for 10,000 young scientists.

Möller was already granted an increase by Waigel's predecessor as Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg.

Politicians specialising in matters relating to the family have also voiced their demands.

They managed to obtain an increase in child allowance for the second child and a prolongation of the upbringing allowance.

The increase in child allowance accounts for DM418m next year, since it only takes effect as of 1 July. In 1991 it will burden Treasury funds during the entire year.

The fact that Waigel has to nevertheless pay DM1.4bn more than the figure envisaged in the federal budget is due to the unexpected increase in the number of births.

In addition to the prolongation of the upbringing allowance by six months this birth upturn explains why the Finance Minister has to pay out an additional DM800m for child upbringing.

Housing Minister Gerda Hasselfeldt also felt that her ministry was entitled to a fair share of the additional revenue.

She was able to mobilise DM1.25bn

for publicly subsidised low-cost housing, DM950m more than earmarked for next year in the federal budget.

The new minister is fighting to obtain even more money, regardless of the fact that low-cost housing is in a sorry state and basically amounts to a waste of money.

The Federal Labour Office has turned into a bottomless pit.

The budget originally envisaged a figure of DM2.8bn for this item - mainly because of the growing number of ethnic German immigrants.

An additional DM1.6bn is already needed, leaving a total of DM4.4bn.

This is the price the government has to pay for the thoughtless way in which it assigned tasks costing billions of marks to the Federal Labour Office in the eighth amendment to the Labour Promotion Act at the beginning of 1988.

Although this provided relief for the federal budget it was only temporary.

In the end, Waigel had to fill the gap left in this field by his predecessor.

It is hoped that the assistance for the long-term unemployed agreed upon during the "Blüm round of negotiations" (Norbert Blüm is the Bonn Labour Minister) will help achieve this objective.

Bonn will provide employment subsidies amounting to DM1.5bn to induce firms to hire persons who have been unemployed for a longer period.

The 1990 federal budget will have to finance several hundred million marks. This relief campaign merely helps the government fill a gap it previously created itself.

The Federal Labour Office had to drastically cut back its qualification programme, a major reason being the increase in Federal tasks.

This move "created" precisely those unemployed who now have to be helped. It is extremely difficult to detect the meaning of such things and floggings.

There are also demands for more money for development aid and the construction of trunk roads. The pension insurance scheme costs the Federal Government at least DM600, coal mining DM280m, and the postal reform DM275m more than planned.

And, finally, Defence Minister Stoltenberg has also placed a list of demands on Waigel's table.

He needs over DM100m more than originally planned for the European Fighter Aircraft, the costs of which were originally expected to amount to DM670m next year.

This "superbird" is turning into an extremely expensive affair: this year alone there has been an upward revision of its total costs from DM6.6bn - over a period of six years - to DM7.1bn.

It is doubtful whether Stoltenberg will be given a hearing for his other demands to equip the Bundeswehr.

Waigel can dismiss such demands by using the same arguments Stoltenberg himself used when he was Finance Minister. Stoltenberg is in a bad negotiating position.

If cuts cannot be made in other fields it already seems probable that the Federal Government will spend 3.2 per cent more next year than in 1989.

Without the recently adopted supplementary budget for the current year the corresponding figure would have been 3.6 per cent (1989: plus 5.8 per cent).



Everyone wants money from him... Finance Minister Waigel.

(Photo: Poly-Press)

The Bonn coalition government only recently agreed to keep the spending increase below three per cent. According to the federal budget it is supposed to be two per cent.

Waigel already considers himself lucky that he will be able to limit next year's borrowing figure to DM33bn - as opposed to the figure of DM36bn provided for in the federal budget.

His predecessor Stoltenberg referred to a once-only "slip-up" after being forced to take the new borrowing figure of the Federal Government up to DM35.4bn last year. This year, however, the net borrowing figure will again increase by DM27.8bn.

Next year's forecast figure of DM3.1bn could turn out to be too low if the economy does not develop as smoothly as desired or if the Finance Minister infers from the latest decision by the Federal Constitutional Court on the limitation of public debt that the increase in the transfer to the Federal Government of Bundesbank profits, from a figure of DM5bn this year to a figure of DM7bn in 1990, is no longer permissible.

In this case the new borrowing figure would increase to DM35.1bn or even DM40bn if the transfer of Bundesbank profits are dropped altogether.

America consults its allies as little as possible and is unusually incapable of seeing matters from its allies' point of view.

The pace and extent at which Bonn politicians are plunging our country into debt are absolutely irresponsible.

At the end of this year the Federal Government will be faced by a mountain of debt amounting to just under DM500bn, a figure which will increase to over DM600bn by 1992.

The debt burden will soar from DM32.4bn this year to DM38.5bn in 1992. By then 12.4 per cent of federal spending will be needed just for interest.

As no-one can guarantee that interest rates will not rise this figure may increase even further.

The Federal Government, the *Länder* and the local governments will be confronted by a total debt figure of DM1,000bn. This means at least DM70bn per annum in interest payments alone.

Politicians do not seem to be unduly concerned about these figures; after all, coming generations will have to foot the bill.

Debt servicing will dramatically restrict the scope for spending of our descendants.

This problem will be experienced by a generation which is already proportionately small in relation to the population as a whole and will thus find it extremely difficult to provide for a much larger older generation.

Not to mention the growing problems caused by environmental pollution and the increase in the prices of raw materials.

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Helmut Rieken

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt)

Bonn, 9 July 1989

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■ INNOVATION

Helping idea-rich small firms through the labyrinthine patent process

Two years ago Harald Wiesner set up his own automotive-systems testing firm, Ems-Technik, in Leer, close to the Dutch frontier.

The company, now employing 60, owes its success to its knowhow in testing technology. Five patents in testing methods gave the young company a lead over the competition.

The future success of industry in the Federal Republic will depend on the innovative enterprise of small companies such as Harald Wiesner's. Knowhow is the decisive factor for their success.

In a world where international competition is getting ever keener, companies such as Ems-Technik need support in safeguarding and applying their knowledge.

This is why local authorities try to give newly-established companies a helping hand at the beginning through technology centres; central and state governments have increased their support for research among small and medium-sized companies.

But another point has become more and more important: safeguarding new technical developments on which the success of small and medium-sized companies in the Federal Republic is based.

Yet the number of applications for a patent in the Federal Republic, 75 per cent of which come from medium-sized firms, has dropped slightly.

Safeguarding their innovations is an ticklish matter for inventors working on their own and new companies. The prototype of a new idea usually has to be built with great effort and often with costly small components.

Applying for a patent is also an expensive and tedious business. It involves charges, examination fees and an annual payment for maintaining the validity of the patent.

This costs altogether about DM3,000. A European patent for the 12 states of the European Community, issued by the European Patents' Office, swallows up about DM20,000. A worldwide patent costs about DM50,000.

But as only between two and five per cent of all applications for patents are exploited, the financial risks for the applicant are difficult to assess.

According to the Munich-based Ifo Institute for Economic Research, it is not surprising that the enthusiasm for applying for patents increases with the size of the company.

Major companies have their own patent's department where specialists can examine whether inventions are really new and what their possibilities are.

Through their experience in dealing with patent authorities these specialists know what is important about patent applications, which can considerably reduce the process of getting a patent.

But it is not only important to apply for a patent: it is also vital for companies to be acquainted with American and Japanese printed patent specifications.

For these provide information about what a new idea actually involves; they also provide a precise description of inventions with diagrams and design plans, which are a valuable source of technical knowledge.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Systematic Research and Innovative Analysis points out that the Japanese and the Americans look very closely into



printed patent specifications. This source of information, however, is only exploited by major companies in the Federal Republic.

There has also been an increasing internationalisation of patents. The German Patents Office was founded in 1887, but it has been losing in importance because more and more clients want to enter their patents rights with the European Patents Office (EPO). The Europe-wide patent rights acquired from this office reduce the tedious examination procedures.

The increased cooperation between the EPO and the patent offices in the US and Japan makes the transference of patent rights into these markets easier.

Siemens, for example, has 2,000 patent applications per year and is a main client of the German Patents Office. But Siemens is now thinking of going over to the European body, although it is almost bursting at the seams due to the pressure of work.

The firm Tech-Konzept in Essen has been commissioned by the North Rhine-Westphalia government to facilitate access to international markets for small firms, markets which are becoming more and more important all the time.

Tech-Konzept has set up a language data bank in which the terminology of future-oriented technologies will be recorded in 13 languages.

From 1990 onwards companies will be able to make use of this aid to translation for patent applications abroad.

The Fraunhofer Institute wants to help particularly small and medium-sized firms to assess, from a technical point of view, patent applications.

A research service is to be set up within the state industry office, Nuremberg, financed by the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry, through which every company can be informed extensively about worldwide research in a specific field for a charge of about DM1,000.

Small companies do not have the personnel available to get an overall view of the research being carried out by their

competitors from one of the 14 regional patent offices. By mid-1991 the other patent offices will offer this service.

The service offered by the Erfindungszentren Norddeutschland (EZB) goes a step further. This organisation, set up by the Lower Saxony state government in 1981, offers inventors and small and medium-sized firms an assessment of their inventions free of charge.

EZB managing director Lothar Schaar said that although his organisation was set up eight years ago it was still unique in Europe, even if in the meantime various chambers of trade and industry and an increasing number of business consultants interested in innovations were offering assistance.

Paid for by the state government, inventors get a complete advice service. They are told whether their ideas are technically feasible, really new and, just as importantly, whether they have a real chance of being exploited.

The EZB only advises an inventor to apply for patent if all these criteria are met and offers its help to do this.

EZB advances 75 per cent of the application costs and this only has to be repaid when an invention is successfully assessed.

EZB is also charged with recommending to the Lower Saxony Economic Affairs Ministry specific projects worthy of support.

Schaar regards separating the wheat from the chaff as an important service for the inventor, despite the interest in having as many patent applications as possible. This spares the inventor a great deal of disappointment.

Furthermore they can no longer change their professional outlay their expenditures for experiments.

The Inventors Association and the German Society for Inventions and Innovations in Bonn regards this as discrimination against the inventor operating on its own.

The Finance Ministry avers, however, that tax reforms have strengthened the innovative potentials of small and medium-sized firms. Yet executives in industry are worried that the valuable flow of ideas from employees will dry up as a result of this tax reform.

In order to maintain the financial impetus for creative thinking many companies have in the past few weeks dramatically increased their bonuses for improvement suggestions. For the efforts of employees, often underestimated, are valuable capital for a company.

Ten per cent of the applications for a patent presented every year by car manufacturers Opel or the mining organisation Bergbau IG Westfalen come from employees.

Despite vehement protest by inventors, the SPD and even the CSU, the Finance Ministry has remained obdurate. Bonn said tersely that consideration was not being given to amending this point in tax reform.

The financial authorities are also failing to trust inventors in another way.

While inventors complain about the high fees charged by the German Patents Office, the highest in Europe, this Office showed a surplus of about DM30m this year, which is picked up by the Finance Ministry. In America, on the other hand, the Patents Office is subsidised.

I feel the situation in the Federal Republic is better in this respect. The success of the press is indeed, in my view, one of the success stories of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany.

These are causes that are quick to influence a wider public, triggering a sense of "we" and "them" once the man in the street begins to feel no-one

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 June 1989)

set up a similar organisation in North Rhine-Westphalia, aimed at medium-sized companies.

Efforts of this sort are taken note of in Lower Saxony with a degree of bitterness, because the economic weakness of the state are reflected by its scarcity of inventors.

According to the German Patents Office only 6.5 per cent of West German inventions come from Lower Saxony, the second largest state in the Federal Republic.

In population terms Lower Saxony has 29 inventions per 100,000 people, third place from the bottom.

By comparison Hesse with a similar number of inhabitants had 69 patents, Baden-Württemberg 76.

Peter Steppina, chairman of the West German Inventors Association, said the better information about research in other companies and cost-free advice to inventors were all praiseworthy developments. But in his view the position of the inventors will not be improved fundamentally.

He believes that what is lacking is cash for the first conversion of an idea into something tangible, and for workshops where inventors can have these of vital equipment and the possibility of exchanging ideas with others.

If inventors have for years complained about a suspicious bureaucracy, over-cautious bankers and a lack of interest for their inventions in industry, their anxiety is now primarily directed towards the Bonn Finance Ministry.

Inventors working on their own must pay tax on the bonuses which they receive for licences or suggestions for improvements in companies as a consequence of the tax reforms, introduced on 1 January this year.

Furthermore they can no longer change their professional outlay their expenditures for experiments.

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(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 June 1989)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Radioactive cargoes pose threat to crews on international flights

Radioactive cargo is carried in the holds beneath airliner cabins more often than passengers may imagine. Crews in particular are exposed to a high contamination risk, says Rudolf von Braunburg, a former Lufthansa pilot, now a freelance writer living in Waldbröl, near Bonn.

Crews are airborne for up to 900 hours a year. Even if freight items are packaged and carried in strict accordance with requirements they still emit low-grade radiation of the kind that even erstwhile nuclear power aficionados must now admit can, in the long term, have devastating effects.

As it was a North Atlantic run and there were no instructions on the contents of the radioactive packages and what to do by way of protection, the pilot asked the ramp agent, in charge of ground servicing, to shift the welcome packages stored in front, near the cockpit.

Yet despite this radiation risk there is still not the slightest sign of crews being regularly checked for radiation exposure.

Pilots are exposed to an estimated 120 millirems a year (legally they may be exposed to up to 3,600 millirems a year). This and other sources of radiation amount to an average annual exposure of 500 millirems per crew member.

The ramp agent refused. His instructions were clear. Radioactive packages are not to be stored alongside live animals.

Airline crews all over the world have found out for themselves that regulations of this kind deal in detail with where, and where not, to store radioactive cargo — but blandly disregard the crew.

Passengers can work out for themselves their radiation exposure per flight. But, and it is a big but, this figure presupposes that all radioactive consignments are both clearly marked and properly packed.

Legal or not, this is a level at which people run a markedly higher cancer risk, twice as high as the average exposure of reactor staff and about 15 times the exposure that is tolerated for people who live near nuclear power stations.

Passengers can work out for themselves their radiation exposure per flight. But, and it is a big but, this figure presupposes that all radioactive consignments are both clearly marked and properly packed.

Those were the days when we flew on board Superstar freighters fuel rods for a reactor near Karachi — at a time when the world's governments uniformly denied having anything to do with building or supplying Pakistan with plant, equipment or nuclear fuel.

A pilot who checks his cargo and discovers that the papers indicate a radioactive consignment has no way of checking whether it is properly packed.

Small wonder that pilots have applied for simple measuring procedures to be observed. As all consignments are weighed in before loading, installing a geiger counter alongside the scales should be enough to check the radiation.

To this day air cargo shipments of this kind are not entirely legal, at least not as far as consignment check-in procedures are concerned, and they have increased enormously in number.

The requirements of nuclear medicine for one have increased roughly eightfold in the 1980s. There are few if any long-haul routes on which radioactive

They bought them for a few dollars in a hobby shop in Anchorage. They

They argue that specific exposure

dose ceilings need to be specified, and monitored in the same way as they are for reactor and X-ray staff.

Cockpit, the Frankfurt-based pilots' association, held a press conference in May to publicise their demands.

It was a gathering attended by Berlin lawyer Reiner Geulen and Marburg University nuclear medicine specialist Professor Horst Kuni.

A number of journalists who heard what they had to say were shocked. Ought passengers not to be briefed before take-off on the amount of radioactive material on board and the risk of flying through radioactive clouds?

The question is naive, to say the least. All passengers would promptly leave the plane if they were told what consignments were properly packed.

Airlines' press officers would naturally argue that these shipments and the clouds planes passed through were not in the least dangerous for passengers.

Even so, Cockpit has tabled a comprehensive catalogue of demands that will, in the final analysis, benefit passengers too.

They demand measures to effectively reduce radiation exposure, such as amendments to packaging regulations. Samples containing plutonium ought, for instance, to be protected from fire and shock — just as "spy-in-the-cab" tachographs already are.

Geiger counters ought to be standard equipment on board all aircraft that carry radioactive consignments.

Pilots are naturally keen to ensure that the radiation level to which crews are exposed is regularly monitored.

The demand made by the captain on the occasion initially described, for radioactive cargoes to be stored as far away from the cockpit as possible, will soon be impossible, however.

The new generation of super long-haul jets will require two crews and rest rooms. The replacement crew will wait their turn in quarters near the tail of the plane — and the freight in question.

Professor Kuni was in no doubt how he felt about packaging. When air cargo consignments arrived at his university department in Marburg, he said, he was regularly shocked by the slipshod packaging.

Such irresponsible behaviour would be out of the question at his department. Immediately on arrival, consignments were repacked in accordance with the much stricter hospital safety requirements before being relayed to their recipients.

Rudolf von Braunburg

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 9 June 1989)

Gordon Craig speaks out

Continued from page 5

ing democracy, I feel other politicians were trusted too, Schmidt and Brandt and people.

But I recently heard someone say: "Thank God for Weizsäcker, he off-ssets all the rest of the blackguards."

What has happened during the Kohl administration is, I feel, a decline in confidence — and one that isn't limited to his own party.

Here in the United States I reckon the press is partly to blame. It doesn't do its job properly. It prefers sensationalism and convenience.

The reasons are the extent of corruption, from the Flick affair to party-political funding and the Barschel business, which was a real shocker.

These are causes that are quick to influence a wider public, triggering a sense of "we" and "them" once the man in the street begins to feel no-one

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 June 1989)

EVAC PRESENTS THE BEST SPOTS BY THE TOP EUROPEAN

■ BOOKS

Bank robbers in East Germany disadvantaged

Crime writers from both parts of Germany met at Berlin's idyllic Wannsee at the "Criminale" Conference to discuss the crime novel and the peculiarities of the genre in the East and the West.

And there are peculiarities, mainly peculiarities which are not immediately obvious.

A crime writer from East Berlin, for instance, looked enviously, but not without an ironic twinkle in his eye, towards his western colleagues and said: "It is easier for you to write the great crime novel, because you have the bigger crimes."

Why is that so? Jan Eik from East Berlin asked: "Why do we not have any bank raids and hostage dramas?" He answered himself with a joke: "Because we have to wait 14 years for a getaway car."

Nevertheless the GDR does offer the crime writer a few advantages. They are, for instance, relatively well paid. Unlike their colleagues in the Federal Republic they can earn a living from writing crime novels.

West German crime writers, mainly teachers, journalists or lawyers, cannot hope to receive the rewards their East German opposite numbers get: a minimum print run of at least 100,000 copies for a new book and an advance of 25,000 East German marks.

Print runs in the Federal Republic for a new crime novel are only between 8,000 and 10,000 copies with an advance of DM8,000.

But any writer dependent on the favour of the state can hardly be socially critical. Professor Peter Nusser from West Berlin said that the main function of the crime novel was to be socially critical — of course as well as being entertaining.

The traditional murderer is rarely the gardener, even if he is often to be found in the vicinity of the garden. No, the seekers-after-truth, the investigators and the would-be do-gooders sniff about after quite different spores today, or they should at least do so.

According to Professor Nusser the varieties of reality can no longer be presented so simply — here the crime, there the criminal.

In his opinion there are no longer supreme evil-doers, there is evil such as economic or environmental crime.

Professor Nusser convincingly called for a political crime novel without a happy ending, which made us aware of crime, psychological assessment of the individual linked to a sociological assessment of society.

But, aren't the connections of something like environmental crime too complex to be presented by a crime writer?

Isn't it true that reality far outstrips the imagination which is why we are always lagging behind reality, be it in crime novels, TV games or in the quiet or our own room?

The East German crime writer does not ask such questions. He conforms to what the state requires. But there are more and more signs of a growing sense of social criticism, which several participants in the conference emphasised regularly.

Nevertheless there was not much evidence of social criticism in the excerpts

from East German crime novels, read out at the conference.

Jan Eik, for instance, saw most of the criticism just directed at the catering trade, such as that the "ragout fin" only contained skin or that there was "paprika" on the plate when the menu said that the dish would be served with mushrooms.

Where the crime novel presses on the frontiers of possibility, where deputy directors or department heads are never considered from the very beginning as murderers, where there is no detective à la Philip Marlowe, but state criminologists as defenders of state order, these deficiencies must be made up for with other qualities. And there are other qualities. They are humour, imagination and accurate observation.

These qualities are displayed, for instance, in Gerhard Neumann's *Die Verminnen*. He comes from Halle and is the doyen of East German crime literature. His 33 sketches about the murder in the public baths in Salzhausen are original and imaginative. In a masterly, amusingly-critical way he imitates the language of people of various social backgrounds and of varying walks of life, from the ordinary man in the street to the medical officer of health.

On the last evening of the conference, before the presentation of Crime Writer of 1988 award, there was a discussion.

What trips through the crime novels written by women in a mixed-up way is the corpses of men. The female masterminds let the heads roll aplenty, which does not mean that they glorify violence. On the contrary, women have considerable inhibitions describing violence, even the blood-thirsty. They direct their gaze more to the latent, subtle violence of everyday life.

Ingeburg Siebenstädt said: "Violence does not make a story exciting." Her colleagues Susanne Thomas, Sabine Deitmer, Lydia Tews and Liza Cody from Britain all agreed with her.

They took the view that women hate violence, they could not deal with it and were less violent anyway.

Liza Cody perceptively said: "When a man locks his door at night, it's not a woman he wants to keep out!"

The complaint of an elderly, mother-pampered member of the audience that women and mothers were to blame for everything, was lightly dismissed.

The high point of the conference, making the awards, announced in such

florid terms, did not come up to expectations.

Wolfgang Menges, speaker at the award ceremony, expressed his displeasure at the chaotic organisation of the event and the poor crime novels which he read.

The real surprise was for Menges himself and the competitors he chased out of the running for the award — all names from whom one had not heard a word during the whole crime writer conference week.

The Crime writer of the Year Prize is named after Swiss crime writer Friedrich Glauser. It carries with it a cheque for DM10,000.

The Glauser Prize was awarded this year to Bernhard Schlink from Bonn for *Die gordische Schleife*, published last year by the Diogenes publishing house.

A small bronze in honour of Glauser was awarded to Hansjörg Martin for his life's work as a crime writer. Martin was not present at the conference.

Nevertheless there was not much evidence of social criticism in the excerpts

Vodka-drinking Bella Block and the wandering hands



Unexpected blockbusters... author Doris Gercke. (Photo: Andreas Oehle)

masters of the form, Chandler for example.

She admits herself that she is not well-read in crime literature, which makes her different, delightfully different, from her German colleagues, male and female.

She does without the more or less intelligent playing around with the genre, no quotes from Marlowe, no remakes of Ripley or Spade, wander about in the background of her stories.

Her most important difference to many German crime writers and her definite contribution as a writer is her ability to create an atmosphere of threat, wretchedness, violence and oppression in a few sentences.

Yet her stories are not close to being polemical prose although she selects a specific feminine approach.

Doris Gercke has grasped the significant difference between nature and appearance. She knows how to find words which are not only descriptive at a superficial level.

Describing the career efforts of her police colleagues in *Weinschröter* she wrote: "The whole thing is so meaningless, like a pack of dogs on concrete (where they cannot scratch a hole) after they have defecated."

This comparison might appear vulgar, but futility cannot be more strikingly illustrated.

Furthermore what passes for good literature often expects its readers not to be squeamish.

Crime novel fans can be delighted that a new talent has been discovered, an authoress who can tell a good story without being wordy, with a character who is astonishingly convincing.

She is a writer who intends to develop her literary potential to the full, that means sticking to a bourgeois work schedule: at her desk from 8 until 12 to produce five and a half to six and a half pages of typescript.

This is how she intends to produce crime novels, but she knows her limitations.

In this sense she has applied limitations to her heroine: Bella Block. She reacts calmly when in the last scene of *Nachsalon* she witnesses how from the middle of a group mourning the sudden demise of a pimp, his wife is shot.

These words reveal something. On the one hand Doris Gercke is refreshingly open to suggestions and criticisms of her two books. On the other hand she obviously has a feel for the demands of the crime novel, although she rather regards Chekhov as her literary mentor than the

■ THE THEATRE

Kampnagelfabrik glasnost and a lot more as well



Hundherz at the Thalia Theater

The biennial drama festival "Theater der Welt '89" has returned to the city where it first started ten years ago: Hamburg.

In 1979 the then director of Hamburg's Schauspielhaus, Ivan Nagel, attracted to Hamburg the major event of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), "Theatre of the Nations."

"Theater der Welt" is not entirely a stranger to glasnost. Two years ago in Stuttgart the plays presented opened up discussion of the new openness, wrung from the authorities with difficulty.

The other significance of opening the festival with the Leningrad production involves glasnost.

"Theater der Welt" is not entirely a stranger to glasnost. Two years ago in Stuttgart the plays presented opened up discussion of the new openness, wrung from the authorities with difficulty.

One notices another possible principle in the festival when trying to get an overall view before it really gets going. This is also linked to the desire for openness: it is the paraphrase.

The small series of productions by Potemkin Productions, London, in the Kampnagelfabrik, will be followed by another paraphrase of a classic.

Orme de Ariete is a continuation of Ariel's fate, Prospero's airy spirit in *The Tempest*. This play by the Levi brothers will be put on by the Teatro dell'Acqua from Gargnano on Lake Garda.

There was also another kind of dove-tailing in the form of an instructive look over the shoulder to the "Theater of the Nations" in Hamburg ten years ago.

The New York Squat Theatre was introduced to us then, with performances in the show-window of a Hamburg furniture store.

This time the group is filling the gap caused by Eva Matthes' illness. She was scheduled to appear in a performance of Zadek's production of *The Merchant of Venice* by the Burghtheater from Vienna.

For this festival Squat Group will perform with dialogue in the largest German-language theatre, the Schauspielhaus in Hamburg.

The group, once regarded as an alternative group, has changed its approach to acting within the space of a few years, or at least its requirements.

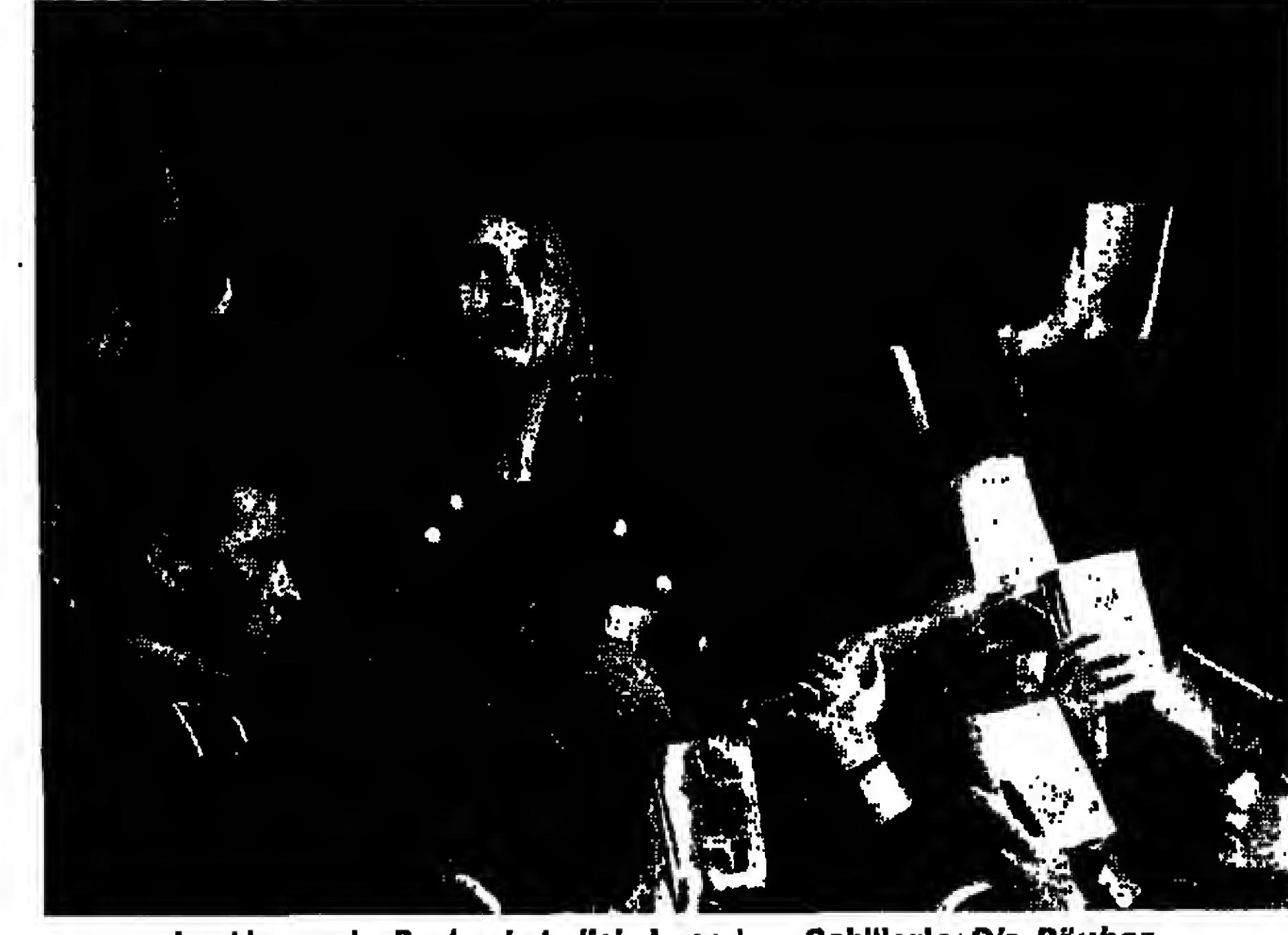
Hamburg's "Theater der Welt '89" has kept to the tradition of promoting a single group. In 1981 in Cologne the

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A Vision of Love Revealed in Sleep

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Looking up in Reclamemelich, based on Schiller's Die Räuber

(Photo: Thalia Theater)

High intellectual demands at the asylum

Of the 159 entries for the 10th nationwide competition "Theaterfest der Jugend," 10 were invited to Berlin.

Hans Chiout, head of the young people's drama competition, said that decisions rested on quality rather than considerations of proportional representation of any kind.

The jury, constantly challenged, discovered quality in the senior classes in gymnasiums and drama-training projects. This year neither secondary modern schools nor vocational schools were represented.

In the jury's view the choice of productions was "extraordinary, if not pointing the way to current drama in schools."

The emphasis was on re-working or adapting of literary models. The intellectual demands of the young people were high.

Among the extraordinary school theatre productions there was a performance by the Frühlings Erwachen drama group from Cologne's Heinrich Heine Gymnasium of Peter Weiss's *The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat*.

The inmates of the Charenton lunatic asylum are loafing about in modern hospital beds, guarded by hideous supervisors. The picturesque crowd form up in varying processions, dancing and poking fun.

If they go too far electric-shock treatment is prescribed that makes the body twitch and grovel by storch lighting effects.

The action is uninterrupted, presenting wicked rascals, fluttering tricolours, scornful pantomime and cruel guillotine games.

Everything was just right, the choreography, the music and the acting.

A robber band was founded at the very beginning of the "Theaterfest." The members of the junior Hamburg Thalia Theatre gave their minds to "The Schiller, who belongs to us," and got to work with the first work of the young poet-playwright Friedrich Schiller.

The result was a work entitled *Reclamemelich* (a play on the name of the publishers Reclam), well-known for their

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■ MEDICINE

Craze for sun-tanning a major cause of the advance of skin cancer

Dermatologists are horrified by an increasingly widespread variety of skin cancer known as "black" cancer, or malignant melanoma.

In the early years of this century it was most unusual. Today the number of new cases reported has increased fivefold in 15 years.

These eight to 12 new cases a year per 100,000 people are mainly attributed to the sun tan craze.

The growth rate is felt to be due to the use of solariums and preparatory drugs that make the skin more sensitive — and quicker to tan.

The latest research findings were compared at an international gathering held at Steglitz University Hospital, Berlin, by the German Dermatology Society's malignant melanoma commission.

Just how widespread is this form of skin cancer? No-one knows for sure. Only estimates are available as uniform cancer statistics are not kept.

In some Länder data are kept, on an anonymous basis, but in 1983 a pilot project began at the Steglitz skin clinic.

Staff at the clinic, headed by Professor Constantine Orfanos, began to keep morbidity and mortality records of this variety of skin cancer.

The central register was launched in 1984 and is run jointly with the Federal Health Office, Berlin.

Thirty-five clinics in the Federal Republic of Germany and one each in Aus-



tria and Switzerland are associated with the project. Others are interested.

Professor Orfanos says the register indicates there has been a somewhat surprising epidemiological change in recent years.

At one time more women than men were generally felt to suffer from malignant melanoma, or a cancerous pigmentation of the skin. This is no longer the case.

In Berlin, for instance, there are eight female and 9.8 male patients per 100,000 people. The men have larger melanomas and a higher death rate.

The complaint may be a killer, but it isn't incurable, Professor Orfanos says. If only it is spotted early it can be cured without drastic treatment.

Indeed, the chances of a permanent cure are better than for any other kind of cancer.

If, however, the patient does not consult a doctor until the condition has reached an advanced stage, whether out of ignorance or of fear, there are strict limits to what can be done.

As soon as it reaches the lower levels of the skin it starts to spread secondary metastatic growths all over the body — to the brain, the liver or the lung.

Improvements in spotting cancer at

an early stage have led to a substantial decline in the proportion of melanoma cases that were not identified until they had reached an advanced stage.

Between 1962 and 1986, Professor Orfanos says, the decline was from 60 to 37 per cent among women and from 72 to 41 per cent among men.

Today nine out of 10 patients consult their doctor when the growth is still less than one millimetre thick. At this stage a scalpel will usually effect a full cure.

For fear of secondary growths enormous areas used to be surgically removed. Entire arms were amputated, for instance.

Today the surrounding tissue is only removed within a radius, and to a depth, of about three centimetres, or just over an inch.

Who belongs to a risk group? Clear answers to this question can be given. Caucasians, or whites, are about 10 times more liable to suffer from this form of skin cancer than people with darker skins, such as Chinese or Africans.

Among the whites people with pale skins and blond or red hair and blue eyes are the main risk group.

From early youth their skin tends to sunburn in the least exposure to sunlight. They seldom, in contrast, get a "healthy" tan.

The alarm bells ring for people in whose families two or more members have a large number of moles or suffer from malignant melanomas.

The age group that is most seriously threatened are, incidentally, the 35-year-olds.

Professor Orfanos adds that the more moles or birthmarks you have, the greater the risk you run of harmless blemishes turning malignant.

Surface melanomas can be satisfactorily treated by means of surgery, but the prospects of a cure for secondary growths are still fairly poor.

Chemotherapy is the usual course of treatment. It frequently can prolong life.

Berlin has gained lengthy experience with immuno-modulatory procedures, such as interferon and interleukin treatment.

These drugs are just as effective as conventional chemotherapeutic treatments yet do less toxic organ damage.

A combination of the two can also make sense, maybe even allowing the patient to carry on working. A limited number of patients seem to respond well to interferon injected straight into a secondary growth.

Chemotherapy is one way of treating secondary growths. Isolated growths in the lung or the brain are nowadays often successfully removed by surgery.

A substance that has yet to be licensed for clinical use also holds forth the prospect of dealing satisfactorily with secondary growths in the brain, which occur frequently.

This wide range of treatment even for malignant melanomas that have triggered secondary growths is no guarantee of a cure, Professor Orfanos says.

But it can prolong a life sensibly lived and greatly ease the pain.

The safest way of ensuring that malignant melanomas do not become lethal is to keep an eye on your body and consult your doctor as soon as you see any changes in or bleeding of moles.

They are using special cell cultures to check conventional cytostatic drugs and see whether they have the same properties.

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The laser beam — the scalpel of light

Laser treatment was shown at a Munich trade fair, Laser 89, to work wonders in curing thrombosis of the leg and arteriosclerosis.

A new laser designed and manufactured by a Munich firm can blast sclerotic material from the inside walls of clogged blood vessels to within a hundredth of a millimetre.

So sufferers from the condition popularly known in German as "smoker's legs" are the latest in line for successful medical treatment by means of the laser.

Eye surgeons were first to use the laser's high-energy light rays about 20 years ago to weld a detached retina back into position.

In urology laser rays are used to destroy tumours in the bladder, the urinary tract and the abdomen.

The versatile laser is used to eliminate skin ulcers and angiomas and to generally assist surgeons as they operate.

In brain surgery they can eliminate ulcers that are otherwise impossible to remove surgically, or only at great risk.

Heat emitted as part of light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation, to give the laser its full name, is even used to treat slipped disc patients.

Generations of doctors have dreamt of operations in which no blood is shed. "Bloodless surgery" is now standard practice in an increasing number of surgeries.

The laser has fast gained acceptance alongside the scalpel as an indispensable surgical instrument, and its use is sure to grow even more widespread, says Professor Alfons G. Hofstetter, head of Lübeck medical laser centre.

Only a few weeks ago Berlin eye surgeon and physicist Theo Seiler and Professor Josef Wollensek of the Free University, Berlin, unveiled a trailblazing new technique to treat defective eyesight.

They demonstrated how a short wave, high-energy excimer laser can be used to shave fractions of a millimetre off the cornea to rectify short or long sight.

After laser treatment, which does not require a stay in hospital, patients can throw away their glasses and go home. The light falls on their retina at exactly the right angle.

Latest developments in laser medicine hold forth great hopes of cancer treatment. One method uses the heat emitted by the laser, another relies on laser-induced photochemical processes.

The patient is first given a contrast agent, a haematoxylin derivative or HPD for short. It is injected into his veins.

This marker substance stays longer in diseased than in healthy tissue.

Laser treatment triggers photochemical processes that kill the diseased cell yet leave surrounding tissue unharmed (it hasn't been sensitised and doesn't respond to laser light).

Specialists in Lübeck, at the Soviet Laser Institute, Moscow, and at the Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg, have joined forces to combine this process with conventional cancer treatment.

In the United States doctors have mended several fractures by laser, so plaster is well on the way to facing serious competition from — or being replaced by — the ubiquitous laser too.

Peter Kröger
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 June 1989)

■ NATURAL HISTORY

Robot's convincing performance in The Dance of the Foraging Bee

It is over 40 years since the language of bees was deciphered, and scientists have pulled off another amazing coup.

Würzburg University zoologists have simulated the dance of the foraging bee, leading worker bees to artificial sources of food.

The dance is imitated so convincingly by a robot bee that other bees accept it and act on the message which is seemingly relayed.

Once Karl von Frisch had deciphered the language of bees in 1945, an achievement for which he was later awarded the Nobel Prize, many zoologists set out to simulate the dance of the foraging bee.

She will describe semicircular arcs, stopping to wiggle her tail to and fro. The direction indicated relates to the position of the sun with reference to the Earth's field of gravity, the robot bee has to be reset every 10 minutes.

The robot bee is also dusted in the scent of the likely flowers, such as thyme. Samples of the nectar collected are also needed to convince the other bees.

A dance performed vertically and upward on the honeycomb means: "You have to fly straight toward the sun to get there."

Dancing vertically but downward means: "Fly in the opposite direction to the sun." Dancing at an angle to the sun indicates the exact angle of the direction to be taken.

The distance is indicated by the dance rhythm. The longer each figure takes and the longer the intervals between each performance, the further away the source of nectar is from the hive.

The dance of the foraging bee is not just a news item. "It contains strict instructions to surrounding worker bees to join the fray immediately and help to work the new-found food source," says Martin Lindauer of Würzburg University.

If this impression is confirmed, cancer patients stand to benefit in two ways.

Cytostatic drugs will set to work on the cell, leaving the laser to finish it off. Skin and mucous membrane carcinomas are best suited for this treatment, Professor Hofstetter says.

Lasers can also be used to break up gallstones, kidney stones and stones in the urinary tract within the body — although the technique has not yet been perfected and standardised.

An endoscope is first used to insert an optical fibre into the body. Laser rays are specially focussed and sent down the fibre and straight to the stone.

The laser triggers a shock wave that reaches a pressure of several thousand bars at the point of impact. After a couple of minutes of bombardment the stone is shattered into fragments that find their way out of the body in the normal way.

This technique, known as intra-corporal shock wave lithotripsy and devised in Lübeck, is undergoing trials at urological clinics in Lübeck and Munich. So is a similar technique devised by a US manufacturer.

If they work they will be serious competition for the extra-corporal technique in which the patient lies in a tub full of water or on a water-filled cushion and has gallstones or kidney stones shattered bloodlessly from outside the body.

Orthopaedic surgeons are increasingly using lasers too, particularly to treat slipped discs. Even "laser welding" of broken bones is now more than wishful thinking.

In the United States doctors have mended several fractures by laser, so plaster is well on the way to facing serious competition from — or being replaced by — the ubiquitous laser too.

Peter Kröger
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 June 1989)

This success came as a surprise in that Professor Michelsen wasn't over-optimistic when he arrived in Würzburg with his robot.

Bees back in Denmark had been interested in the bogus information but were quick to identify the robot as an intruder and to sting it to death, as it were.

Würzburg bees seemed less mistrustful. They took the phoney dance at face value.

"It will probably be another decade before we have developed a really convincing robot bee to direct other bees to specific feeding places," Professor Michelsen says.

That isn't his prime objective. He and his fellow-scientists are more keenly interested in correctly interpreting the significance of the individual figures of the dance.

We could be in for a number of surprises about the "language" used for communication in the animal kingdom.

Wilhelm Jäsch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 June 1989)

Tip-toeing through the treetops (with electronic assistance)

Eight Tübingen biologists went on an expedition to the treetops of the tropical rain forest last year. Equipped with mountaineering gear, they probed a virtually unknown treetop world in the Amazon.

One of their destinations was the Rio Napo in Ecuador. The expedition took place in spring 1988. Its findings are still being evaluated.

But this treetop world seems likely to be inhabited by more species of animal life than are known to science. His research work is supported financially by the Mainz Academy of Sciences and the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology.

He is by no means the first scientist to try and simulate the dance of the foraging bee. US scientists tried years ago, using a dancing robot bee.

Burkhard Lindauer, in conjunction with Axel Michelsen, a specialist in bioacoustics at Odense University, Denmark, made the crucial breakthrough.

Treetop research scientists don't need to climb trees to learn more about it. US zoologist Terry Erwin identified over 3,000 new species of insect by spraying the treetops with a narcotic that made insects plummet to the ground as a kind of pulsating rattle.

Fallen trees are also a revealing source of information, says Klaus Riede, head of a group of German scientists at Tübingen University, department of biocybernetics.

He collaborated with French scientists in identifying a number of new varieties of locust found in fallen trees.

The Tübingen biologists' starting-point was a Quichua Indian village.

Using local scouts, they set out on a quest for trees that might be suitable for use as observation platforms.

They preferred not to climb trees. You never know what they are attached to, says Walter Junger, the expedition's chief mountaineer. Besides, they are used by a wide range of dangerous snakes and scorpions.

The team relied instead on sturdy ropes. Once they had climbed up a tree using ropes, they built a safe observation platform at a height of 22 metres (72ft).

Jungle sounds

Riede relied heavily on directional microphones and tape recorders to record the sound of the jungle by day and by night.

He is now using electronic analysis procedures to filter out individual sounds that are recorded on graphs for comparison with others.

When he identifies a new sound it is usually that of a new kind of insect. Members of the expedition also caught a number of previously unknown insects in traps. They are now being identified by zoologists in New York.

In the Costa Rican rain forest US zoologists have rigged nets along which scientists can move from one treetop to the next, but their German counterparts feel it is generally sufficient to use microphones, traps and unmanned cameras.

Zoologists only need to climb trees themselves to observe the behaviour of animal life in this tropical treetop world.

It includes a wide range of medicinal herbs and insects that kill tree pests.

But the tropical rain forest is vanishing fast — at an estimated rate of between 250,000 and 400,000 square kilometres (100,000 and 155,000 square miles) a year.

The entire surface area of the Federal Republic of Germany is less than 250,000 square kilometres.

Rainer B. Langen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 June 1989)

What is happening in Germany? How does Germany view the world?

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Die Welt und die Weltzeitung
B. Nickolaus
(Die Welt, Bonn, 16 June 1989)

Axel Springer Verlag AG, DIE WELT, Postfach 105830, D-2000 Hamburg 36

■ HORIZONS

Japanese Gemütlichkeit at the bar of the Limelight

Die Welt

From the outside, the Limelight looks like any other bar. Inside, it could be in Japan. But it isn't. It is in Charlottenstrasse in Düsseldorf.

It is full of Japanese. They sing. As best they can. Not together, but separately. The singer holds a microphone while the lyrics appear on a television screen to guide him or her.

The efforts are greeted with lusty applause. This is a Kara-oke bar. There are thousands of them in Tokyo — and two in Düsseldorf. The term means "without orchestra" in Japanese. Why is this one called Limelight? The beautiful Tomoko Ueno explains that if the Japanese characters for "come", "dream", "come" and "people" are spoken in succession, it sounds like "limelight".

In between, Tomoko plays the piano (she likes Bach). She has a catalogue with 1,500 old and new Japanese songs for customers to choose. There are also more than 100 popular western songs such as *Hey Paula, Yesterday*, and *Tennessee Waltz*. She says Germans customers mostly go for Beatles numbers.

Tomoko is a little sad that so few Germans do visit the bar. Almost only as guests of Japanese businessmen. She says: "And they need a bit of pushing when it is their turn to sing, I push." She laughs. "But when they actually do bring themselves to sing and discover how much fun it is, then you can't stop them."

A bottle of whisky sat on the bar in front of its owner, a bank manager. He says that many customers order bottles.

A label with a number is hung round the bottle, which remains on the bar. "Every time I come here, I get a bottle and I drink it to the end." He enjoys it here.

There are about 7,000 Japanese in Düsseldorf and surrounds and 20,000 in the entire country. Apart from Britain, where there are 30,000, there are more Japanese in Germany than anywhere in Europe.

The centre of Japanese activity is the German-Japanese centre, an architecturally impressive office and shopping centre. Housed here are the Japanese consul-general, the Hotel Nikko, a branch of the Bank of Tokyo, and the Japanese chamber of commerce and industry.

A trading firm called Marubeni had the complex built 11 years ago. The area was chosen because there were several Japanese restaurants which had opened in the 1960s. They include the Nippon-Kan, which has been there for 25 years — the first one to open.

A department-store chain, Mitsukoshi, has an outlet in the centre which sells everything that the Japanese like to take back home with them: porcelain from Meissen (in present-day East Germany), nutcrackers from the Erz Gebrüder, a mountain range which runs from East Germany to Czechoslovakia), some small, others almost life-size; and, naturally, beer mugs.

Next door is Wing, a hairdresser's where, to the accompaniment of Japanese pop music, the women are

coiffured in spick-and-span surroundings — the entire interior has been imported from Japan and is the most modern available. Wing is a Tokyo hairdresser's. The hairdressers themselves are all Japanese men. They all wear black trousers and white shirts with ties. One is Shidara Shinikiro. Like the others, he speaks only some broken German because he has been in the country for about a month. He is helped by his girlfriend, Sachiko Ito. She is at home here in Germany because she grew up here. Her father runs the restaurant Kikaku. Sachiko wears jeans and on her lapel is a button featuring a Japanese rock star called Higashi.

She says: "Wing in Tokyo sends young hairdressers to Germany for a year. Hardly any of the customers are German men. The German women try more often."

Nikko, as the hotel in the centre is named, is an abbreviated form of Nikko. The first Nikko hotel was opened in Paris in 1976. Public relations officer Heike Dährling says 30 per cent of the guests are Japanese. Among them are crews from Japan Airlines.

"Otherwise we are the same as any other international hotel. The staff is mixed. Staff from Japan are sent to us through the International Food Company, which is a subsidiary of JAL. They spend a minimum of two years here. The do it happily because they are able to travel around Europe in their spare time."

In the Club Aquamarin, Frau Kukuchi allows her weary body to undergo a shiatsu massage. Outside there is a banquet in a bonsai-style surroundings. Although the hotel is not decorated in traditional Japanese style, one of its three restaurants has tatami mats with low tables. But a compromise has been made. The tables are high enough for Europeans to get their legs under them so they can sit in the traditional (western) manner so they don't have to squat and get cramp in the legs.

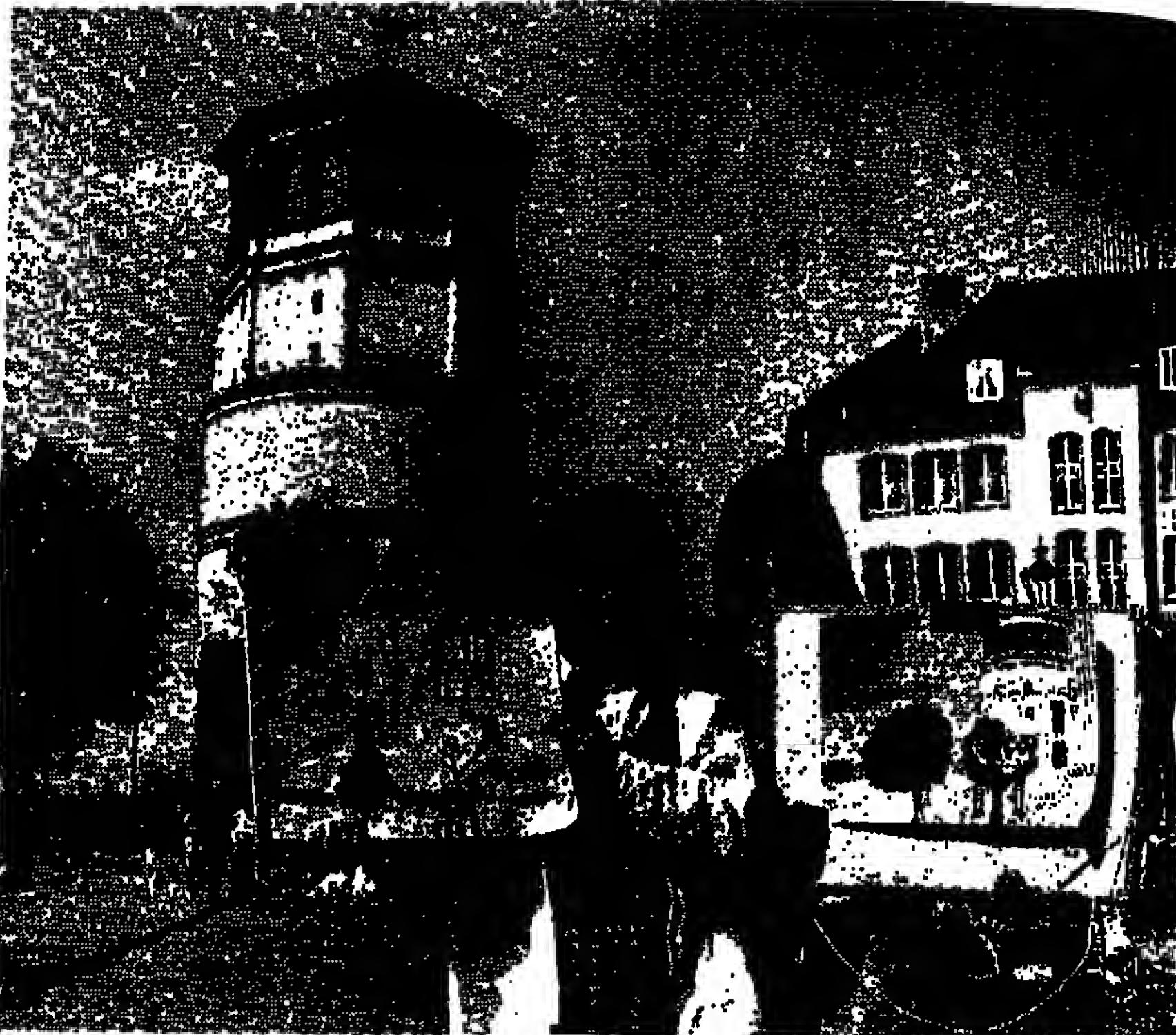
The charm of the restaurants is especially appealing to Germans and Dutch people. Frau Dährling says the Japanese are mad about foods like smoked *Wurst*. Many eat out in the *Altstadt* where they can order *Eisbein* (pickled knuckle of pork).

A Greek who runs one *Lokal* favoured by Japanese is enthusiastic about them. "They take part in everything; *Kamewal* included. Not long ago we had a German-Greek night and the Japanese were there."

The barman was amazed at the variety of drinks they drank, "grog, seltzer, lager, spirits, orange juice, everything. But they never make a row and they don't fight." Neither, he said, did they attract xenophobia like the Turks.

A department-store chain, Mitsukoshi, has an outlet in the centre which sells everything that the Japanese like to take back home with them: porcelain from Meissen (in present-day East Germany), nutcrackers from the Erz Gebrüder, a mountain range which runs from East Germany to Czechoslovakia), some small, others almost life-size; and, naturally, beer mugs.

Next door is Wing, a hairdresser's where, to the accompaniment of Japanese pop music, the women are



At home in Düsseldorf, for a while anyway.

Are the Germans and other Europeans gradually dying out? That might just be a question out of touch with reality except for the grim forecasts, of the statisticians.

The population explosion is almost entirely restricted to developing countries. The latest German census reveals the reverse in this country.

The number of people in Germany has dropped from 58.2 million in 1970 to 56.9 million in 1987.

This should make us stop and think because over the same period the proportion of people below the age of 15 dropped from 23 to 15 per cent.

At the same time there was an increase in the number of people over 65 from 13 to 15 per cent of the population.

This much-quoted increase in the proportion of old people in society has become a problem. Newspaper headlines show the radical changes in population make-up and the economic and social consequences: a shortage of nurses to look after the elderly; pension schemes on the verge of collapse.

This is why the Europe section of the International Union of Family Associations has set out to investigate the causes of the decline in the birth rate in industrialised countries and after an analysis of results to formulate political demands and social concepts.

The question of the number of children people want to have and the number they actually do have was discussed at a conference at Bad Honnef.

According to Herbert Wolfram, president of the European Union of Family Associations, there is in almost every country in Europe "a conspicuous discrepancy between the number of children wanted by young couples and the number they actually have."

According to Herr Wolfram, prime reason for the search for grounds for this is the results of a survey which showed that "in 1984 only two per cent of young couples in the Federal Republic

■ THE POPULATION

The two-child family has now become the ideal

lic were in favour of childlessness, but 13 per cent remained without children."

The survey also showed that although 64 per cent of couples believed the ideal family included two children, in fact only 35 per cent of young couples had two children.

These figures are not just valid for the western industrialised nations. They are also true of the countries in Eastern Europe.

This was confirmed by research done by Professor Wassili Fthenakis, head of the state institute for educational theory and family research at Munich University, and Professor Andreas Klinger, head of Hungary's senior statistics authority.

There are a variety of reasons for the decline in the birth rate. According to Professor Klinger what scientists have lacked until now are long-term studies which monitor couples from when they marry and follow the couple and their children through.

The first results of spot-check surveys are now available. From these results couples can be divided into three categories, according to Professor Fthenakis:

- Couples who were childless on medical grounds;
- Couples who had planned never to have children;
- Couples who had temporarily planned not to have children.

According to Herr Wolfram prime reason for the search for grounds for this is the results of a survey which showed that "in 1984 only two per cent of young couples in the Federal Republic

divided among all sectors of society. Herr Wolfram said that in this equation there was a third aspect which came into play, namely that of the working woman.

The income of families with several children was reduced because the woman temporarily or totally ceased to work.

Instead she carried out work, to all intents and purposes unpaid, which was important for society as a whole, work from which later the couples who "earned twice as much and had not brought up children" would also profit.

Professor Klinger and Professor Fthenakis were both of the view that women going out to work was an important reason for the decline in the birth rate.

The most common reasons given for why there were delays in getting married and having the first child were education and career.

Professor Fthenakis said that the vast majority of the women questioned said that they could only be good mothers when they no longer had to go out to work.

He commented: "But this concept of the mother's role stands in contradiction to the professional involvement of young women, since so many of them are in the 'temporary childless' category."

In the search for ways to increase the birth rate Professor Fthenakis, jokingly, recommended, "the abolition of collective retirement pension systems and, not as effective, a ban on education for women."

More seriously he concluded by saying: "Only different policies towards women can solve this problem. These policies must be aimed at orienting women towards career and family, and these must be seen from a long-term viewpoint."

Professor Fthenakis said that conditions should be created so that women who want to have children are able to do so and to do so without being put at a disadvantage in our society.

Patricia Andreae

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 17 June 1989)

Call for TV to be banned for young children

Children of pre-school age should not be allowed to watch television, according to Horst-Werner Franke, Bremen's Education Senator.

The general consul in Stuttgart, Norberti Okuda, who teaches social studies and also runs the administration, laughs almost embarrassedly: "That looks so military. Many regard it as an anachronism. No, we don't want uniforms."

Mr Okuda knows the school, the oldest Japanese school in Europe, better than anyone else. He was there when it was founded in 1971.

The general consul in Stuttgart, Norberti Okuda, reckons that the problem will soon be overcome, and that a Japanese upper school will be established in Düsseldorf. If that happened, he said, it would attract many more of his compatriots to Düsseldorf instead of, for instance, Frankfurt.

He said, in excellent German: "Up until the war when civil aviation was not developed, most Japanese in Germany went to Hamburg. In the 1950s the Japanese came here to learn, from the Germans because the post-war reconstruction process, especially in heavy industry, was much more advanced than in Japan. In Düsseldorf, they were more or less at the window of the Ruhr."

Children were exposed to many images and stimuli which they could not handle and which were deliberately misleading, at an age when their abilities to assimilate ideas and images were not yet developed.

Mr Okuda especially enjoys the con-

sium at the end of "Theater der Welt 89," at the beginning of July, dealing with theatre in the GDR.

The next "Theater der Welt" in 1991 will be staged in Essen in the Ruhr, a region where there are more theatres than anywhere else in the world.

After Essen the festival will be staged every three years.

Continued from page 11

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 15 June 1989)

(Die Welt, Bonn, 10 June 1989)

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 June 1989)

(dpa)

(Hans Chiotti took this up and said:

"Youth theatre is not theatre for young

people but theatre by young people." In saying this he was echoing the views held by many of the young participants as sensitive and witty as *The Robbers* itself.

The Hamburg players acted as pupils at the military "Karlschule" in Stuttgart, where Schiller, the son of an army officer, was admitted in 1773.

They read from the playwright's biography how hard the drill was in this boarding school. What was read out was played out.

At night in the dormitory torches were switched on: one hits on reading *The Robbers*.

Firstly the yellow copies of the Reclam paperback of the play were handed round and then the parts given out.

In the military academy, where Schiller wrote in secret, his fans improvise in a performance of his play.

On the stage the lines were read out violently, artificially, pathetically. This collage was delightfully comic and completely successful.

But there were things to criticise, not regarding quality but on the jury's selection of plays.

The critics grumbled: "The Robbers and Marat/Sade — where are we then?" These were too difficult and too demanding. Young people should perform plays for young people.

The same theme was tackled in the play *Rüya — Ein Traum in Bildern*, performed by the Theater der Jugend from Munich.

The charming and smart performance from eight Turkish girls from Munich (the youngest at the festival) created real pleasure.

All participants were delighted by the performance of the handicapped from

the rehabilitation centre in Neckargemünd.

The content of their play, *In Ohnmacht des Alltags*, was indeed immature and incoherent — there was the career woman and the computer freak, the neo-Nazi and the revolutionary, who spouted their dogmas alone on stage. But the actors performed their roles with considerable intensity and got round their handicaps marvellously.

The public was not particularly impressed with the musical *Ikaros*, by the "Zehndorfer" Group from the Copernicus Gymnasium in Rheihe.

The group placed the legend of Daidalos and Ikaros in the present-day and packed far too much into the piece. Because the young people had to concentrate too much on the singing and dancing.

But this could not have happened with the comic play for children *Kinderkiste* by the "Spuntheater" from Bergheim. This was first-class theatre clowns.

The play *Öyle Bir Sinif — So eine Klasse* dealt with the problems of young Turks living in the Federal Republic. It was performed by the German-Turkish Youth Drama Group from the adult education centre in Wedding, West Berlin.

The same theme was tackled in the play *Rüya — Ein Traum in Bildern*, performed by the Theater der Jugend from Munich.

The event fulfilled what Essen theatre director Hans Günther Heyne said in his guest lecture: "Theatre's social work."

With passion Heyne said that acting and theatre should be a discipline taught in all schools in the Federal Republic. Berlin showed that this would be worthwhile.

Christine Dösserl (Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 10 June 1989)